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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

Bibliographical Reform.—The pressing need of an improvement in the methods of indexing scientific literature is admitted on all sides. Especially a young and growing science like zoology feels this want.

Present bibliographical aids are inadequate in three principal respects: First, they are incomplete; second, they are tardy in furnishing notices of papers; and third, they do not enable one to find quickly all references to any subject of which one desires the literature.

Although at various times attention has been called to the existing imperfections in our bibliographical service, it is only lately that active steps have been taken to improve that service radically.

Over a year ago Dr. H. H. Field began to agitate the matter of reform in the bibliography of zoological literature by a letter, printed in *Nature* (Vol. xlvii, p. 607, Apr. 27, 1893). Last spring the Royal Society of London, whose Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals is well known, sent a circular to scientific men and institutions asking for suggestions concerning the compilation through international coöperation, beginning with the year 1900, of a complete catalogue of scientific literature, giving not only titles arranged according to authors's names, but also an index to subject matter. This request has already excited earnest attention and seems certain to elicit a cordial response.

Dr. Field's plan in no wise conflicts with the Royal Society's purpose; it may, indeed, be said to coöperate in it. He believes that the reform on the zoological side ought not and need not wait half a decade. It should begin at once. If the plan proposed by Field should be successful it would show the probability of success of the larger undertaking mentioned in the Royal Society's circular. If that undertaking should be begun in 1900 the zoological part of the work, already organized would be easily absorbed by it.

Field has already drawn up the outlines of a definite plan after consultation with prominent zoological bibliographers in Europe. These he has already published. Besides the printed letter in *Nature*, referred to above, a statement of his plan can be found in the *Biologisches Centralblatt*, Bd. xiv, pp. 269–272; *Verhandl. Deutschen Zool. Gesell.* iv Jahresversammlung, 1894; and *Mém. Soc. Zoologique de France*, Tome vii, pp. 259–263.

The essential points of his plan are these: First a single international bureau, situated at some great library centre in Europe, which shall receive all zoological papers. It shall make such arrangements as are necessary with governments, publishers and directors of zoological institutions for obtaining all zoological publications, and it shall have agents in every country or province to see that the literature of that region is sent to the bureau.

This bureau will obtain synopses of the contents of all papers and books, through authors, publishers and paid agents. The central bureau will, moreover, superintend the printing and distribution of its publications.

This bureau will also naturally acquire, in time, an invaluable collection of the entire zoological literature from the time of its foundation.

Second, publications in two forms: 1st, a pamphlet of titles and books with short synopses, resembling, but somewhat more extended than the various more or less incomplete bibliographical lists now published in different periodicals. This pamphlet to be issued at brief intervals. 2nd., the same titles including synopsis printed either on one side of a narrow sheet or on separate cards of standard size. The synopses to give a clue to the contents of the papers and to serve as a basis for the arrangement of the cards according to subjects. At suitable intervals a subject index to the literature, based on these synopses to be published.

Field had the intention of submitting his plan to the American Society of Naturalists at their New Haven meeting, last year, in order that they might be the first to appoint a committee to confer with similar foreign committees in the further elaboration and the inauguration of the undertaking. He believed that, owing to the friendly relations existing between this country and all European nations, America could best take the initiative in this work. Owing to an unfortunate delay in the mails, however, Field's paper, presenting the subject, came too late for presentation to the American Society.

Since that time Field has submitted his plan to the zoological Societies of Germany, France, and Russia and these have appointed committees to act together in considering the details of the plan and methods of supporting it. Besides the recognition by societies, numerous individual zoologists of Germany, France, Russia and England—among them v. Bardeleben, Bouvier, Dohrn, Hoyer, Paul Mayer, Minchin, Mitrophanow, and Schimkewitsch—have signified their interest in the plan and many of these their willingness to coöperate.

Although American zoologists cannot be the first to make a definite move in the direction of bibliographical reform their hearty coöperation at the present critical time will help to make it an accomplished fact.

Besides coöperating with the committees from other countries, American zoologists can contribute to the success of the plan in two ways. They can see that copies of their own and others' publications are forwarded to the central bureau and they can make synopses of their own papers and others dealing with their specialities. Those who are willing to aid in these directions should communicate with DR. H. H. FIELD, 67 RUE DE BUFFON, PARIS, FRANCE.

An Academy of Sciences for Michigan.—At a meeting of about 25 persons, held in Ann Arbor, June 27, 1894, it was unanimously agreed that it was desirable to form a society for the purpose of scientific research in the State of Michigan.

At this meeting, the officers whose names are appended were elected to serve until a permanent organization should be effected, and were instructed to act as an advisory board with the duty of recommending a constitution and by-laws for adoption by the society, and of preparing a program for the next meeting.

At a meeting of the advisory board it was unanimously agreed to recommend that the name of the society be the "Michigan Academy of Sciences," and that it have for its principal object the study of the agriculture, archeology, botany, geography, geology, mineral resources, zoology, etc., etc., of the State of Michigan, and the diffusion of the knowledge thus gained among them. It is not the opinion of the advisory board, however, that the work of the society should be restricted to the subjects named but should be enlarged from time to time as occasion may require.

W. J. Beal, President, Agri. College; J. B. Steere, Vice-President, Ann Arbor; F. C. Newcomb, Secretary, Ann Arbor; W. B. Barrows, Agr. College; I. C. Russel, Ann Arbor.

The Journal of the Biological Association of the United Kingdom (Vol. iii, No. 3, 1894) contains, besides special articles noticed elsewhere, the report of the director, from which we learn that 12 persons occupied tables during the year 1893-4, and that 9 articles were published as results of work done there. The expenses of the year amounted to about \$11,000. We regret to see that the regular receipts are not sufficient to meet the outlay. An interesting fact is that over \$350 was received from entrances to the aquarium room.

Dr. H. Solereder has been appointed custodian of the botanical collections at Munich.

Dr. Zimmermann has been made professor extraordinarius of botany at Tübingen.

Dr. Filhol is the professor of comparative anatomy at the Museum of Natural History at Paris, succeeding Pouchet.

Dr. A. Oppel has been appointed extraordinarius in embryology and microscopy at Freiburg, i. B.

Dr. E. Stolley has been appointed docent in Geology at Kiel.

Major C. L. Griesbach, for twenty years connected with the survey, has been appointed director of the Geological Survey of India.

A new biological journal has appeared in Germany, the "Archiv für Entwicklungsmechanik" edited by Prof. Wilhelm Roux of Innsbruck and issued by the house of Engelmann in Leipzig. The first number contains the following papers. Roux, Cytotropismus of the blastomeres of *Rana fusca*; Ribbert, compensational hypertrophy and regeneration; Barfurth, experimental regeneration of superfluous limbs in Amphibia; Barfurth, are the limbs of frogs capable of regeneration? Tournier, origin of joint forms. The first number is illustrated by 7 plates and costs 10 marks. Each volume will contain about 650 pages.

An appreciative sketch of the late Dr. H. A. Hagen by Samuel Henshaw appears in vol. xxix of the Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Altmann has been made professor extraordinarius of Botany at Freiburg iB.

Dr. Ed. Holzapfel has been appointed professor of Geology and Paleontology in the technical school at Aix la Chapelle.

Dr. Rudolf Burckhardt, formerly of Berlin, is now extraordinary professor of comparative anatomy at Basel.

Dr. Erich Haase, the well-known student of myriapods, died in Siam, in the last of May.

Prof. J. Jägge, director of the botanical museum at Zürich, died June 21, 1894.

Dr. O. Th. Sandahl, the physiologist, died at Stockholm, June 22.

Dr. Paul Albrecht, of Hamburg, is dead.

Dr. Carl von Heider, formerly of Berlin, has been called as ordinary professor of zoology, and Dr. M. von Lenhossek of Würzburg as professor of anatomy, at Innsbruck.

Dr. R. von Lendenfeld becomes ordinary professor of zoology in Czernowitz.

Dr. Schewiakoff of Heidelberg goes as assistant in the Zoological Institute of St. Petersburg.

A. C. Gill has been appointed assistant professor of mineralogy and petrology at Cornell University, and Gilbert D. Harris assistant professor of Paleontology at the same institution.

Miss L. C. Deane has been appointed instructor in biology at Vassar College.

At Wellesley College the following appointments have been made: Edith J. Claypole and Miss Hubbard, instructors in physiology; Elizabeth F. Fisher, instructor in geology and mineralogy.

Charles S. Prösser, formerly instructor at Cornell University, has been called to the chair of geology in Union College.

Dr. W. S. Nickerson is occupying (ad interim) the chair of biology and histology in the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Recent Deaths.—Prof. Paul Albrecht, vertebrate anatomist, of Hamburg, Sept. 15, 1894. Dr. C. M. von Bauernfeind, Director of the Technical School of Munich, August 2, 1894. Prof. Friedrich Bidder, physiologist, of Dorpat, August 31, 1894, aged 84 years. G. Cotteau, student of Echinoderms, of Auxiere, at Paris, August 10, 1894. Prof. A. Hannover, anatomist, at Copenhagen, July 8, 1894, aged 80. Salomon Herzenstein, Conservator of the Zoological Museum of St. Petersburg, ichthyologist, August 19, 1894, aged 40. A. F. Kuwert, coleopterist, at Wernsdorf in Prussia, August 15, 1894. Prof. Michele Lessona, zoologist, at Turin, July 20, 1894, aged 71. F. E. Mallard, mineralogist and crystallographer, at Paris, July 6, 1894. Prof. Natanael Pringsheim, the well-known botanist, at Berlin, October 6, 1894, aged 70. Baron Gerhard-Maydell-Stenhusen, botanist and Siberian explorer, at Bad Ems, August 18, 1894. W. Topley, geologist, at London, Sept. 30, 1894, aged 53.